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Extensions of ongoing country programmes

Note by the secretariat

Summary

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2009/11, this note informs the Executive Board of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo, Cuba, Mexico and Sierra Leone, all approved by the Executive Director.

The note further presents the reasons for the proposed one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following a previous one-year extension. The Executive Board is requested to approve this programme extension.

Draft decision

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo, Cuba, Mexico and Sierra Leone, which were approved by the Executive Director and are presented in table 1.

2. *Approves* the one-year extension of the country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic, following a previous one-year extension, as presented in table 2.

* E/ICEF/2018/8.
Note: The present document was processed in its entirety by UNICEF.

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Table 1
First extensions of one year (or less) of ongoing country programmes approved by the Executive Director

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period*	*Year/period approved for extension*	*Reasons for the extension*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2015–2019	2020 *one-year extension*	– General elections are scheduled for October 2018. – To align with the extension of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) by one year, to 2020. – To align with the next European Union Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for 2021–2027. – To align with strategic planning processes related to European Union accession and a potential new reform agenda beyond 2018. – To provide for additional time to complete several evidence-generation activities, which will be used to inform the next UNDAF and the UNICEF country programme.
Congo	2014–2018	2019 *one-year extension*	– To align with the National Development Plan, which will be launched in 2018 following the development of sectoral strategies. – To align with the UNDAF, which has been extended until 2019.
Cuba	2014-2018	2019 *one-year extension*	– To align the UNICEF country programme with the UNDAF, which has been extended until 2019.
Mexico	2014–2018	2019 *one-year extension*	– To align the UNICEF country programme with the UNDAF, which has been extended until 2019. – Elections will be held in mid-2018, and changes are anticipated in key ministries and related government institutions. – To align with the 2014–2019 National Development Plan.
Sierra Leone	2015–2018	2019 *one-year extension*	– Presidential, parliamentary and local council elections were scheduled for March 2018. – The development of a new country programme document (CPD) will follow rather than precede the adoption of the next national development strategy, which is to be developed following the elections. – To align with the UNDAF, which has been extended to 2019.

Table 2
Extensions of ongoing country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is requested

UNICEF-supported country programme	*Original programme period, including previous extensions*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reasons for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Syrian Arab Republic	March 2016 to December 2017 (Previously extended to 2018)	2019 *one-year extension*	The United Nations country team is negotiating with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for a second one-year extension of the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF).	To harmonize UNICEF cooperation with that of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme, which are also recommending one-year extensions to align with the extended UNSF.	Country programme documents for UNDP and UNFPA within the United Nations Development Group will be ready for submission to their Executive Board in 2019, with a start date of 1 January 2020.